



ISSUE #21
MAY DAY 2009

B A M

Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement
A General Anarchist Union in the Boston Area





8 HOURS LABOUR
8 HOURS RECREATION
8 HOURS REST

How Migrant Workers Won the 8 hour Day: A History of May Day

by Jake Carman

In the U.S. in the late 1800s, workers in general and migrant workers in particular faced abysmal conditions on the job. Workers, including children, could suffer 16 or more hours a day under dangerous, stifling sweatshop conditions to earn starvation wages and live in cramped quarters. Like today, workers poured in from all over the world to pursue the American Dream through their own honest labor. Workers came from Ireland, Italy, Germany, China, Russia, Japan, Spain, Mexico, Norway, Syria, Slovakia, Poland and elsewhere in search of better lives. When they arrived, however, they faced blatant racism and hate, just like migrant workers do today. Eking out hard livings in tight-knit ethnic communities, most were considered second-class citizens, regarded as diseased criminals, untrustworthy scoundrels and, more importantly, a cheap and dispensable source of labor.

Comparing their tortured conditions to the lives of luxury and leisure that their labor provided to the factory owners and bosses, these workers became determined to do more than exist as slaves; they would organize and win for themselves lives worthy of humans. Many immigrants brought with them the radical traditions of their native countries. Anarchists, socialists and other revolutionaries found eager ears among their fellow workers, foreign and native-born alike. Recognizing the injustices of the United States, they dreamt of a world where workers control the products of their labor, where all people have access to food and housing, and where communities, not politicians and bosses, make the decisions.

A movement for an eight-hour day was

gaining momentum across the country. This struggle, undertaken by reformers and radicals alike, demanded eight hours for work, eight for sleep, and eight for leisure. Chicago's strong labor movement pressed for and was rewarded with 8-hour legislation in 1867, to be enacted May 1. However, when that day came, the bosses refused to respect it and the government didn't force them to. Chicago's militant, organized workers went on strike to protest, but the police brutally crushed their resistance within a week and the despondent workers returned to their jobs. Nothing had changed for Chicago's toilers except their confidence that change could be achieved through legislation.

This rejection of reformism stayed in the collective memory of Chicago's workers and by 1886, another, more radical 8-hour movement had gained momentum. Led by migrant and other workers in the anarchist International Working People's Association (IWPA), a general strike was planned for May 1st to proclaim the power and strength of Chicago's determined workers. On May 1st, 1886, 400,000 went on strike in Chicago, with another 350,000 joining them across the nation. 80,000 marched through Chicago's streets on May Day, defying the artificial boundaries masters used to divide them—race, sex, nationality and trade—and their demonstration of unity terrified the upper class. Determined not to concede anything and to greedily hoard all of the wealth they had robbed from the poor, the rich set out to crush the movement with violence.

The BAAM Newsletter

is the monthly publication of the Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement, a general union of Boston anarchists. Our publication aims to spread anti-authoritarian ideas and practices, and to report on the social struggles of workers, tenants, students, radicals, and others resisting the repression of the state, bosses, landlords and banks.

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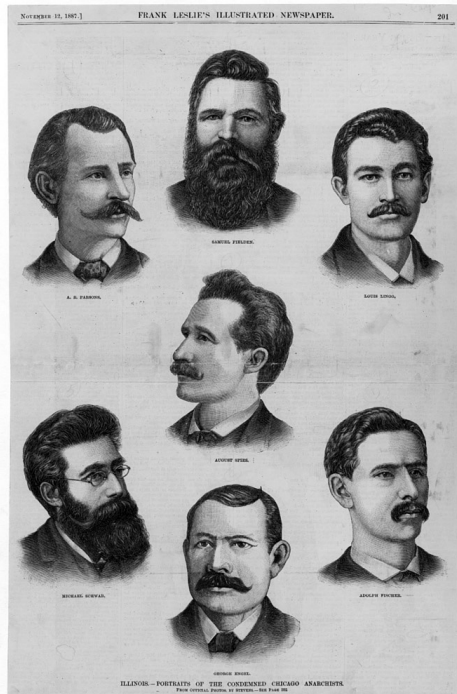
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Labor Crucified

The workers' momentum continued with strikes and demonstrations. On May 3rd, the striking "lumber shov-ers" union held a public meeting of 6,000 near the McCormick plant. The police, loyally serving and protecting the interests of wealthy capitalists, attacked the meeting with guns and batons, killing one worker and wounding more. Outraged, anarchists posted a call in their daily German-language paper, the *Arbeiter-Zeitung* ("Workers' Newspaper") for a May 4th protest meeting at Haymarket Square.

That night, thousands gathered at Haymarket to denounce police violence. The crowd listened calmly to speeches by migrant anarchist workers, such as August Spies and Samuel Fielden. Even the mayor of Chicago, who attended the beginning half of the rally, said, "nothing looked likely to happen to require police interference," and he advised police captain Bonfield to send his forces home. Bonfield didn't. Around 10PM, after the mayor and many attendees left, and as Fielden was calling the meeting to a close, Bonfield's force of 200 officers marched on the rally, threatening violence and demanding it break up. Just then, someone threw a bomb at the police, killing one instantly and injuring many. In the chaos, police fired indiscriminately, killing seven of their own officers and numerous demonstrators, though they never counted how many workers they slaughtered.

A reign of terror followed while the state prosecutor publicly advised the police to target anarchists: "make the raids first and look up the law afterwards." Police arrested all known anarchists and raided meeting halls, printing offices and homes. Eight prominent anarchists, newspaper editors and unionists—August Spies, Sam Fielden, Albert Parsons,



Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Michael Schwab, Louis Lingg and Oscar Neebe—were charged with the Haymarket bombing. Of the eight men, 7 were immigrants, and only 3 were at Haymarket that night. The state prosecutor handpicked a biased jury, but presented no evidence connecting them to the bomb. As the prosecution argued in court, "Anarchy is on trial. These men have been selected, picked out by the Grand Jury, and indicted because they were leaders. They are no more guilty than the thousands who follow them. Gentlemen of the jury; convict these men, make examples of them, hang them and you save our institutions, our society." So they did.

A massive international campaign followed, propelled by Lucy Parsons, wife of Albert and an effective labor organizer in her own right. In response, the state commuted the sentences of Schwab and Fielden to life imprisonment, and Neebe got 15 years. The

gallows awaited the rest. The fiery young German carpenter, Louis Lingg, cheated the hangman, committing suicide in his cell the day before his execution. On November 11th, 1887, Parsons, Engel, Spies and Fischer were hanged. 600,000 attended their funeral.

The state murdered those five anarchist organizers. At the time it was seen as a setback for the 8-hour movement, but the event radicalized many more, including influential anarchists Emma Goldman and Voltairine de Cleyre, whose radical careers were inspired by the anarchists of Chicago.

The American Federation of Labor and the anarchist IWPA took the streets again on May Day, 1890, and the movement for the 8-hour day pressed on. Carrying the legacy of the Haymarket Martyrs, organized labor began to make headway. The United Mine Workers achieved the 8-hour day in 1898, as did the Building Trades Council of San Francisco in 1900, printing trades across the US in 1905, and Ford Motor workers in 1914. In 1916, threatening a nationwide general strike, US railroad workers forced the government to pass the Adamson Act, which won them an eight-hour day and additional pay for overtime.

Finally in 1938, massive militant movements of workers and unemployed forced the Roosevelt government to pass the Fair Labor Standards Act, establishing for many the 8-hour day with extra overtime pay, as well as a national minimum wage and the abolition of "oppressive child labor."

Repression, Deportation, and the Decline of Labor

The story doesn't end there. Frightened by the gains of the US labor movement and by the revolution in Russia, the US ruling class utilized their government to undermine labor's achievements and used violence, racism, nationalism, and red baiting to splinter the movement. On May Day 1919, police and citizens bitten by the bug of blind patriotism attacked workers' parades. Hundreds of workers were arrested, hundreds more were badly beaten, and many workers' headquarters were ransacked. In Roxbury, MA, police and nationalists assaulted parading workers, beating them with clubs, trampling them with horses and shooting at them. In the ensuing battle, 2 workers and 2 officers were shot, and a police chief died of a heart attack.

Beyond the violence of the police club, the government also passed a slew of laws to make the deportation of immigrant activists easier and to keep foreign radicals out. In 1903, a new law excluded anarchists and other revolutionaries from entering the US and



enabled the government to deport radicals who had lived in the US for three years or less. This law was broadened in 1917 to make immigrants deportable for up to 5 years, with no time limit for those who advocated anarchism or revolution. This law was used to target the strong Jewish and Italian anarchist currents. In 1918, a new law allowed the deportation of “aliens who are members of, or affiliated with, any organization...that writes, circulates, distributes, prints, publishes or displays, or causes to be written...or has in its possession...any written or printed matter” of an anarchist or revolutionary nature.

From 1919 until 1921, US Attorney General Palmer used these laws in a wave of arrests and deportations, targeting Italian anarchists and other radicals. Radicals who were not deported either fled overseas or went underground. The Palmer Raids decimated the workers’ movement. During this time, Massachusetts framed and executed immigrant workers Sacco and Vanzetti based on their Italian heritage and anarchist beliefs in what is recognized worldwide as one of the worst miscarriages of justice in history.

From the Palmer Raids to the Red Scare, the government used fear of radicals and hatred of foreigners to divide the labor movement. These divisions still cut through the working class. As a direct result, organized labor is a depressing shadow of what it once was; most unions are too weak and corrupt to effectively combat the dominance of the capi-

talists. With help from the U.S. government and pro-capitalist unions, workers have even forgotten their holiday! Though International Workers’ Day is celebrated throughout the world, until 2006 only a small handful of US radicals commemorated May Day.

The Struggle Continues: May Day Today

In May 2006, it was again the migrant workers who led the struggle for the rights of workers worldwide. Reviving the tradition of International Workers’ Day with El Gran Paro Estadounidense, the Great American Strike, migrant workers organized a one-day strike of work and school and a boycott of commerce. Millions participated in the demonstrations, especially in Los Angeles and also Chicago, the birthplace of International Workers’ Day. Tens of thousands marched in Boston and Everett, MA. Everywhere, workers and student allies joined the immigrants, and the demonstrations helped to stop H.R. 4437, a bill that would have made felons of all undocumented immigrants. In Boston, as across the country, workers again marched for migrants’ rights on May Day 2007 and 2008.

In 2009, we march on May Day once more. Bosses and politicians, aware of the economic depression their system has caused, look for scapegoats. Fearing a renewed movement

of united workers that might force them to share the wealth and the power, the rich spread racism and nationalism. They hope to turn US-born workers against their migrant sisters and brothers. We will not let this happen.

The state terrorizes migrant worker communities with raids and tears apart families with deportations. They beg US-born workers to separate themselves from the “foreigners,” and celebrate not May Day, but “Loyalty Day” on May 1st. To this we reply: we US-born workers are loyal. We are loyal to our class, loyal to our communities and loyal to the workers of the world! No human is illegal, and all workers deserve the same rights and freedoms. Just like the Haymar-

ket Martyrs, we will march onward until the day when workers are no longer divided, exploited or terrorized. We will work together to free ourselves from the bosses and politicians who have dominated our lives with fear and violence for so long.

Until that day, we remember the Haymarket Martyrs, and all of the other nameless workers who have fallen in the struggle for justice, for freedom, and for the workers’ revolution.

No Borders! No Deportations! No Bosses! No Nations!

And a song for May Day!

“Dump the Bosses”

Are you poor forlorn and hungry?

Are there lots of things you lack?

Is your life made up of misery?

Then dump the bosses off your back.

Are your clothes all torn and tattered?

Are you living in a shack?

Would you have your troubles scattered?

Then dump the bosses off your back.

Are you almost split asunder?

Loaded like a long ear jack?

Boob why don’t you buck like thunder,

And dump the bosses off your back?

All the agonies you suffer.

You could end with one good whack.

Stiffen up you ornery duffer

And dump the bosses off your back!

An old (about 100 years old!) labor song from the Industrial Workers of the World. More great IWW songs can be found here, at the website for the Little Red Songbook!

www.sacredchao.net/iww/



(Photo) Workers March for Amnesty, May Day, Chicago, 2008.
Photo by Cosmic Sensorium

Lucy Parsons, A Life of Struggle

by Adrienne

Records of Lucy Parsons' early life are hazy at best. Her mysterious origins are compounded by the fact that she refused to talk about herself, saying simply, 'The cause is above you and me.' Born in Texas in 1853 of mixed Mexican, Indigenous and Black descent, it is almost certain that she was born into slavery. Surviving the chaotic aftermath of the Civil War and rampant KKK terrorism, not the least mystery of her life is how or when she became literate, as she supported herself most of her life through her writing and publishing. She appeared on the radical radar some time between 1869-1871 upon meeting Albert Parsons, a white printer and a veteran of the Confederate army turned Radical Republican, fighting for Reconstruction and Black suffrage.

Whether state-sanctioned or not, the Parsons were married in 1872, fleeing to Chicago in 1873 after it was made abundantly clear to them that the KKK did not approve of their mixed-race marriage. In Chicago, they settled down to have two children and make their living, Albert as a printer, Lucy as a dressmaker. Within a year or two of arriving in Chicago, the happy couple was involved in radical labor politics and writing for a Socialist newspaper. They quickly became respected and influential members of Chicago's radical community, Albert in the printers' union and Lucy with the Working Women's Union. By 1883, the Parsons had lost faith in the power of legislation to protect human rights, had tired of reformist methods and ideology, and were solidly anarchist. They did not cut their ties to non-anarchist labor groups, however, and Lucy's skillful and powerful orations made her an effective labor agitator.

The Parsons became world famous during the Haymarket Affair of 1886. With the newspapers decrying all anarchists as violent, bloodthirsty murderers and her husband's life in jeopardy, Lucy Parsons took no time to mourn and instead took action. She raised funds, published essays and articles, wrote letters and went on national speaking tours to explain to the country what had actually happened. Her appeals asked for justice for her endangered comrades while condemning capitalist exploitation of labor.

From the time the Haymarket Martyrs were found guilty and condemned to death in 1887 until she died in a fire in her home in 1942,

Parsons spent her life writing and lecturing. Parsons' feelings regarding the judicial murder of her husband may never be fully known, but she could not be kept down. She continued writing, lecturing and being a radical public figure. The presiding image of Lucy Parsons as the tragic, grief-stricken widow of the great anarchist martyr or, as the New York Times phrased it, 'Mrs. Lucy Parsons, the colored wife of the doomed Chicago Anarchist, A.R. Parsons,' is a tiresome and inaccurate way of viewing someone who repeat-



edly proved herself a dedicated revolutionist in her own right. Lucy Parsons was active in the struggle for liberation for over 65 years, 55 of which occurred after Albert Parsons' death. Contributing to and running her own newspapers, Lucy Parsons wrote on a wide range of topics including anarchism, the messages of the IWW (which she took part in founding), the exploitation of women, race and gender justice, Southern lynchings (years before Ida B. Wells began her extensive campaign), child labor, birth control, freedom of speech and the right to self defense, among other things. Touring the country and speak-

ing publicly, she was frequently subject to arrest for her ideas.

Lucy Parsons had a lifelong record of working with anti-capitalist organizations she felt were in favor of workers' rights. After the anarchist movement in the U.S. was torn apart by government repression, Lucy Parsons went to work for the International Labor Defense, a front group for the Communist Party engaged in the defense of the Scottsboro 9 and Angelo Herndon, among others, 'because I wanted to do a little something to help defend the victims of capitalism.' Some sources conclude from her non-sectarianism that she joined the Communist Party, despite there being a complete absence of evidence to support this assertion, not to mention Parsons' thinly veiled contempt for the Popular Front, writing to an anarchist comrade in 1934, 'The Roosevelt wind has blown the radical movement to hell!' In 1930, at the age of 77, an elderly Lucy Parsons gave a May Day address wherein she proclaimed:

I am an anarchist: I have no apology to make to a single man, woman or child, because I am an anarchist, because anarchism carries the very germ of liberty in its womb.

From her background of horrific oppression, the literate Lucy Parsons was in a unique position to condemn the dominant social order. While deflecting attention from herself personally, she spent 65 years elegantly drawing attention to economic, race and gender issues, fighting for justice with her last breath.

Check out the Lucy Parsons Center! The all-volunteer, collectively run radical bookstore and community meeting space is at 549 Columbus Ave in Boston's South End.

www.lucyparsons.org

Biographical information and writings, all from Lucy E. Parsons and Gale Ahrens, *Freedom, Equality & Solidarity: Writings & Speeches, 1878-1937* (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr, 2004).

Ibid, 161.

Ibid, 20.

Ibid, 157.

The Harvard Complex

By Joseph Caye

North Allston and Brighton is a blighted community. It's an area that was once full of slaughterhouses and railroad stockyards and has since grown into a multi-cultural, working class neighborhood. But now it's stippled with vacant businesses and construction sites, infested with rats, and devoid of people. It's become a crossroads rather than a destination. It's now the era of Harvard's expansion.

Harvard has been secretly acquiring land in Allston for about 20 years, working through real estate developers to conceal their identity. When it came out in 1997 that they bought land in Allston, they already owned the Northwest corner. They now have more land in Allston than they do in Cambridge (they even have more than Boston University). Almost everything east of North Harvard Street, north of Western Avenue, and a swath of land between Western Ave. and Lincoln St. is theirs. Lower Allston is encased on three sides by Harvard-owned land, and the Mass Pike on the fourth. While the economic tumble is skewing their time line for the completion of the science complex, dragging out construction indefinitely, much of the property west of North Harvard Street isn't included at all in their fifty year Institutional Master Plan.

Western Avenue is lined with vacant businesses, places people used to go to buy clothes and appliances, consult veterinarians about their pets' illness, clean their clothes, and gas up their car. Now, this is the decaying part of Allston/Brighton. There is little here to attract patrons to the area's existing businesses, and fewer jobs available to local residents. Pedestrians are sparse, even on a warm day. Our neighborhood is filled with deteriorating

buildings, instead of neighbors. KMart not only employed hundreds of people and sold a huge miscellany of products, furniture, clothes, electronics, and housewares, it was also a central hub where residents of Allston and Brighton would meet.

Harvard has successfully filled most of the buildings they consider "leasable," but they still have nearly as much "unleasable" property sitting inactive. Like the structure on Lincoln and Everett Street. That giant, fenced off building, which formerly featured a 24-hour security trailer, is considered to be "unleasable" because it isn't finished. Eight years after breaking ground, the building still looks forsaken and the yard around it is almost barren dirt. It looks a long way from being "leaseable." A few of their most recent tenant choices filling "leasable" properties include the Mascoma Corporate Office (which is moving to New Hampshire), Finale Corporate Headquarters and Central Kitchen, and Espresso Express (a business that sells and delivers bulk café products). These are operation headquarters with no retail front, and few employees. They don't attract people with products or services, and they serve retail locations in other communities. Finale might put up a small bakery and set up some chairs in the future, but right now there just

isn't any foot traffic. So, you still need to trek over to a more vibrant retail center like Harvard Square or Coolidge Corner for your \$10 slice of Tiramisu.

For the community's benefit, Harvard has agreed to put \$25 million into the north Allston/Brighton neighborhood for sidewalk trees, community education, bike paths and community events. They opened up a children's tutoring center and sponsor a farmer's market in the summer. In two years, the park behind the Allston-Honan Library will be a resplendent example of the finest in playground innovation, the product of an open design process, but until then, there's just a shiny chain-link fence to climb on and grass to roll around in. They even paved the sidewalk on the side of Western Avenue that they own. They have a long list of positive places they'll put their money, besides into a hole. I think this community could use more than landscaping, though.

Harvard President Faust explained that the credit crisis has cut deep into their wallet, the endowment shrunk by about a fifth



Photo by JB Infernal

and they now have a meager \$28 billion in their savings. That's only a few billion more than they had when they broke ground for the science complex, and nearly \$20 billion more than they had ten years ago. So their financial despair has prompted budget cuts for operations all over Harvard, imposing an across the board salary freeze, worker layoffs (slashing personnel by as much as 40% in some departments), an extension and possibly a pause on the construction of the science complex, and a sharp decrease in the amount of financial aid they'll contribute to students. Last December, in the midst of all the economic turmoil, they scrounged together the funds to purchase another property that has no place in their fifty year plan; 9 Travis St., a property valued at \$1.7 million, will sit vacant until Harvard finds a use for it. They can't manage the property they own right now, but still, they refuse to stop buying land in Allston, not even until they finish the science complex. The Institutional Master Plan promised to create more than 11,000 new jobs and revitalize North Allston/Brighton, but so far it has only forced residents to relocate, created a giant hole, and closed businesses that provided much needed jobs.

During this process, the university sends representatives, two nights a month, to have a public meeting with the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Allston Community Task Force. Residents are welcome to come and participate in discussions of Harvard's expansion and how it's benefiting/weakening our community. Harvard often listens to questions from the representatives and the audience, and sometimes they answer them. The university always makes the final decisions, regardless of the neighborhood's sug-

gestions. It took a letter from Mayor Menino to embarrass the university into discussing deadlines for some of the community benefits and responses to issues residents are having with construction and landbanking. Harvard's primary concern is with their long-term financial health, not with the wasteland in North Allston/Brighton.

Towering above all of North Allston, the

five cranes of the science complex sit poised like the fingers of a crimson hand breaching the soil. It's the hand of Allston's most prominent and most powerful landlord. The picture of Allston Harvard paints, with its tree-lined streets, bustling sidewalks, and lush open parks contrasts sharply with the reality, and half a century is a long time to wait for anything. Can we afford to wait that long?

Harvard Workers Say: Harvard Has The Money! No Layoffs!

On April 16th, a hundred Harvard workers and their allies gathered to protest Harvard's corrupt labor policies. Workers, led by the Harvard Union of Technical and Clerical Workers (HUTCW), launched a No Layoffs campaign at the beginning of 2009 to combat firings and layoffs at the richest university in the world, a university that claims to be broke.

For two hours, workers and their unions, Harvard students from organizations like the Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM), the Harvard Democrats, and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and neighbors from across the Charles with the Allston Brighton Neighborhood Assembly (ABNA) picketed in front of the Holyoke Center and watched musical and cultural performances and speeches. Below is the speech of BAAM member and ABNA Co-founder, Jake Carman.

Brothers and sisters,

We're living in a crisis, where the foundations of the capitalist system have crumbled so badly that even Harvard University, the richest school in the world, claims to be broke.

The Harvard Corporation, as we have seen, is taking steps to ensure its own survival; but not survival as working people like us see it. They are not struggling to feed their children: they eat better than we ever will. They don't have to worry about losing their homes like we do: they live in mansions and luxury apartments, and no one is trying to replace them with "better people."

Harvard is fighting to survive as Number 1. They rest their reputation on being the best, the richest and the most powerful school in the world. And in order to stay number 1, they are threatening our very survival.

In the case of these workers, they threaten
...continued on next page...



Photo by John Cleary



Photos from April 16th picket by J.B. Infernal. (Above-Right) Harvard workers perform a dance. (Above-Left) Jake Carman speaks to the rally.

...Continued from previous page...

your jobs and therefore your homes, families, and livelihoods, claiming layoffs are needed for Harvard to survive.

In the case of our neighborhood in Allston/Brighton, they threaten to tear the fabric of our community, with their vacant properties and their 50-year plan of expansion. Strangling our remaining local businesses by leaving a blighted ghost town in their wake, Harvard is making it harder and harder for working class people to remain in our homes.

They are paving the way for a new class of people, the people the Harvard Corp wants as their neighbors.

But does Harvard need to be the richest and most powerful university to provide their students with a great education? Do they need to threaten the wellbeing of their workers and neighbors, to step on our backs in order to reach the highest heights of greatness? And if so, are these the values they are teaching the future leaders of the world? Apparently, my friends, the answer is yes.

Harvard University may not come out the other end of this recession as #1, because the cutthroat mentality they have taught is the cause of this crisis. But the workers, we are an entirely different story. We will survive the crisis brothers and sisters, because we will fight for each other. We will reach our hands out to our fellow workers and neighbors, as we have always done during the economic crisis capitalism has caused, and we'll lend out the love that rests at the bottom of our hearts and pull each other through.

And at each turn, when institutions and interests of power such as Harvard strike out at us for their own selfish sake, we'll stand together, confront them head on, and we will fight back! Stand up for freedom, equality and democracy, in the neighborhoods and workplaces.

No layoffs, no vacancies!

New England Brings the Noise to the IMF and the World Bank



From April 24-26, hundreds gathered in Washington, DC to demonstrate against and disrupt the bi-annual meeting of self-described world financial leaders. Every spring and fall the IMF and World Bank meet with delegates from all over the world, but primarily from the wealthiest, most powerful nations and corporations. The G20, the twenty wealthiest nations in the world, recently approved giving the IMF over \$1 trillion to lend out to other nations in the name of global capitalism. For almost a decade, anarchists, labor advocates, environmentalists and others seeking global justice have been protesting these meetings, working to prevent delegates from getting to the IMF headquarters to devise their malevolent policies that result in worldwide economic and ecological devastation.

Who are the IMF and World Bank?

Over the past sixty years, the IMF and World Bank have been waging a war against impoverished communities, mostly in the Global South. They execute these attacks through Structural Adjustment Programs (SAP's), which force governments to cut necessary public services and programs such as utilities, education and health care. SAP's encourage privatization, putting vital opera-

tions into the hands of unaccountable, profit-driven multinational corporations and away from local control.

SAP's have a long history of stealing from the poor and giving to rich, multinational corporations. Argentina provides one of many examples. A recipient of IMF/WB money and subject to their manipulative policies, they suffered a worsening economic crisis in the 1980s. The IMF and World Bank were lending millions of dollars to Argentina to fund various projects, like dam construction, which displaced huge populations of Indigenous and impoverished peoples. Between dam-related displacement and policies shattering the rural economy, mass migration led to a higher concentration in urban centers. The population in Buenos Aires alone grew from five to nine million, straining the city's water and waste systems. The money Argentina received for dams was part of ASAP that required cutting the public works budget, affecting the water supply to the city of Buenos Aires and its poorest residents especially. To address the problem it had created, the IMF offered to lend Argentina hundreds of millions of dollars to supply the people of Buenos Aires with water, but only if the country

followed the terms of a coercive agreement and privatized the public utility company that provided water to the city. Two international corporations were given contracts, providing water at great cost and in violation of the U.N. Convention on Human Rights. On top of this, they asked for and received a rate increase within a year and continued asking for more, despite agreeing not to ask for increases for at least a decade. The IMF violated not only the agreement, but any trust anyone should have in privatization. The impositions of the IMF and World Bank eventually caused the complete and utter collapse of the Argentinian economy in 2001, leaving the people with nothing but a spirit of resistance as banks took all of the country's money out in armored vehicles.

April Uprising, 2009

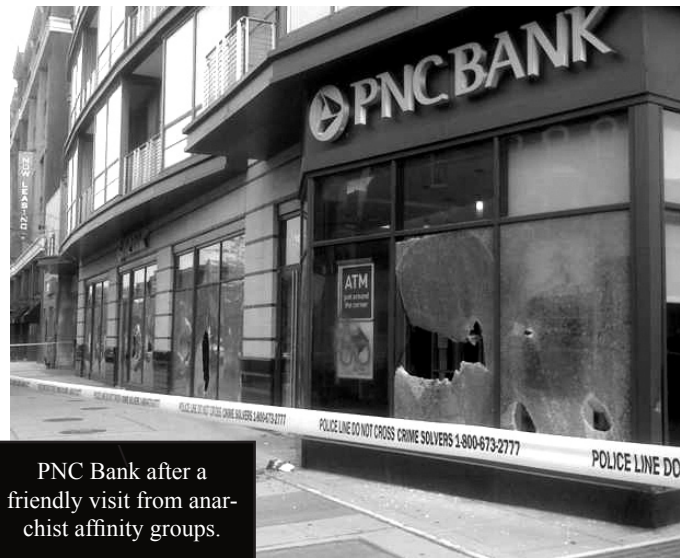
Plans had been underway for months before the April meeting of the IMF and World Bank, resulting in a fairly elaborate agenda of events for the weekend with a 5K "Run on the Bank," a walking tour of downtown DC on Friday and, for Saturday and Sunday, blockades, multiple marches – with and without permits – and a People's Economic Forum which included a panel discussion, featuring Boston's own James Herod, explaining the world financial crisis and presenting alternatives to the destructive capitali\$t model. Autonomous actions throughout the weekend were also encouraged.

After folx got their run on and became more familiar with the city, autonomous actions began. In the early morning hours of Saturday April 25th, a small group redecorated PNC and Wachovia banks with paint, smashed ten windows, caused tens of thousands of dollars in damage and closed the branches for at least three days. While self-described journalists and cops had a hard time making the connection, both of these banks, like the IMF and WB, are complicit in the financial crisis sweeping this nation and the globe. Their policies punish the poor and these banks are

responsible for evicting hundreds of families from their homes. Both of these banks received federal bailout money and continue their anti-poor policies. In October 2008, within hours of receiving \$7.7 billion in federal bailout money, PNC acquired National City Corporation for \$5.58 billion. It is obvious that this was a premeditated move by PNC; knowing they would be in receipt of federal money, they decided to expand instead

of using that money to help keep people in their homes or funding community enrichment projects.

Later Saturday morning, multiple marches against the IMF snaked around the streets of DC, working to prevent the delegates from reaching IMF headquarters. One march was aerobics-themed and others explicitly anti-capitalist. When the anti-capitalist marches met up with the spandex march, they left the sidewalks and took the streets, followed by increased police attention. The march was effective in using reinforced banners to prevent the police from forcing people back onto the sidewalks, and in holding space on the street. The march chose a route that brought it to three checkpoints around the IMF, used to smuggle in delegates. As the march approached each of these checkpoints, police had to shut them down and re-route self-described world financial leaders elsewhere. Anti-capitalists managed to shut down two of the checkpoints. As they approached the third in the front of IMF headquarters, police attacked. The march had almost pushed through a line of police when a reinforced banner snapped, shooting bamboo into the faces of police. An intense shoving



PNC Bank after a friendly visit from anarchist affinity groups.

match ensued. Protesters faced off against police, who were attacking with batons, grabbing, jostling, and head-butting demonstrators with their helmets. Protesters were eventually pushed toward the sidewalk and into a metal fence surrounding Murrow Park. The cops kept pushing and there was no room left to move; those who fell were trampled upon and a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent deployed a mixture of teargas and pepper spray while other police used standard issue pepper spray. This was the first use of chemical weapons at a protest in DC since Bush's inauguration in 2005. One protester, sprayed at point blank range, required hospitalization, as did her partner, who suffered a severe leg injury. Street medics treated over a dozen people for exposure to chemical weapons. Police sustained injuries as well; one was sent to the hospital for facial injuries from bamboo, another from being sprayed by the ICE agent. In the end, the IMF/WB meeting was delayed for over two hours, the same amount of time the militant march had been in the streets.

On Saturday night, after the People's Economic Forum, a soccer-bloc took to the streets and ended up in Georgetown, the wealthy, commercial area of the city where delegates schmoozed in swanky hotels. Police came down hard, detaining most of the participants, arresting two and doing a slow release with the rest. Police accused 21 medics of "hiding behind the cross," i.e. pretending to be medics while actually participating in the action. Sunday afternoon saw an uneventful, permitted march of 150 people, ending at a rally with a speak-out.

Final Thoughts: Saturday's successes can be attributed in part to autonomous actions throughout the morning across the city. Despite the rapid failure of the publicized blockade strategy, there were enough independent backup plans that the IMF/WB meeting was still delayed for two full hours. The anti-capitalist march, originally theorized to support the blockades, stepped up and became a roving blockade itself when the hard blocks fell. The organizing groups, Global Justice



Action and the Self-Described Anarchist Collective, provided activists with logistics, legal and housing support, but it was up to affinity groups to organize actions. Props to those that did! Aside from the blockades, the multiple marches with different starting points that eventually joined forces, and the PNC/Wachovia bank actions that have been reported in the media, other actions were reported against the International Finance Corporation, a branch of the World Bank, and other culpable targets. Together, these actions dispersed police response across the city and provided cover for each other. A small turnout was able to accomplish much despite obstacles, mistakes, and repression-- and to delay the meeting!

Though the meetings were not shut down, resistance was shown in the streets against not only the IMF, but global capitalism. People are linking the international banking syndicate with the domestic banking criminals, evidenced by attacks on banks and other targets. More and more people are realizing the power within themselves as they push through police lines to stay on the streets. It is time to realize that the problems lie with the banks and capitalists and the solutions lie with us, the people and workers of this world.

When capital is global, so must be our resistance.

Are you angry yet? The New England Clusterfuck calls this IMF/WB summit a successful beginning. We are part of the resurgence of the anti-globalization, anti-capitalist movement. Thanks to the resistance of people in the Global South and oppressed people in our own country, the global financial system is faltering. We know these systems aren't sustainable, but with an armory of state, corporate and martial power to back it, capitalism has proven durable and flexible. We must join together to ensure that our dreams of community controlled, ecologically sound economics are realized.

Resistance begins at home. As the anti-globalization movement died down over the past decade, anarchists have turned towards creating infrastructure in our communities that can support ourselves long term, financially, emotionally, and logistically. Housing and workers' collectives, infoshops and indymedia centers, gardens, autonomous spaces, and mental health support serve both as examples of what we wish to create as well as supportive structures for a bigger and more effective movement. It's time to put these resources to use. The G20 summit is coming to New York City this September. We're preparing now by organizing medic trainings, meeting with friends for playdates to build trust and teamwork, and networking with activists along the East Coast.

What are you doing?

-The New England Clusterfuck

CALENDAR: GET INVOLVED

Every Monday:

Papercut Zine Library meeting, 7:30pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

First Tuesday of Every Month:

BAAM meeting, 7pm, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Second Tuesday of Every Month:

Anarchist Black Cross meeting (defense and prison abolition group), 8pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

Every Wednesday: Free Radical

Film Nights, 7pm, at the Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston, Ma

First Sunday of Every Month:

Rising Tide Boston meeting, 5:30pm @ The Lucy Parsons Center 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Second Sunday of Every Month:

2pm Industrial Workers of the World meeting, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave.

Third Sunday of Every Month:

BAAM work and activity day, 1pm. Locations being arranged, email Jake at trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net for info.

Every Friday:

Food Not Bombs free community meal, 4-6pm, Boston Common, Park St T Stop

May 2nd

Wake up the Earth an annual celebration of May and community, organized by Spontaneous Celebrations. The Festival began in 1979 when a group of local neighbors and activists banded together to stop the Interstate 95 expansion into Jamaica Plain and is a celebration of what can be accomplished when people of all traditions, cultures, ages, and beliefs come together. 11:00am-5:00pm at the Southwest Corridor Park, adjacent to the Stony Brook T stop. BAAM will hold our annual **Reviving Radical Roots anarchist kids games**, and our first **Anarchist Picnic** of the year, featuring a puppet show and the remembrance of the Haymarket Martyrs. Look for the black flags and the kids games.

May 3rd

The Boston Interpreters Collective would like to invite you all to the BIC's Inaugural Futbol/Soccer game! 2 pm, on the open fields located at the corner of Brookline Ave and Route 9. Please bring two t shirts if possible, one white and one dark colored and something to munch on and drink so as to refuel our hopefully exhausted energy! There is a small parking lot right next to the fields and its near the Brookline Village T.

May 7th

Ice Cream Social and Intro to Prisoner Support. Always wanted to try prisoner support but didn't know where to start? Join the Boston Anarchist Black Cross for a fun event! At the Papercut Zine library. 7:30 pm



1908 May Day Rally in Union Square, NY

CALENDAR: GET INVOLVED

May 9th

George and Julius in Concert. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street, Boston. \$10 suggested donation. Performing a variety of original songs and favorites from the past century of folk music, George Mann and Julius Margolin combine social and labor history with songs and a dose of slapstick wherever they perform. Sponsored by the Boston IWW (Industrial Workers of the World). Proceeds will benefit the defense of Providence IWW members Alex Svoboda and Jason Friedmutter. www.georgeandjulian.com

May 16 and 17th

Montreal's 10th Annual Anarchist Bookfair at the CEDA, 2515 Delisle, a short walk from Lionel-Groulx metro). Part of the month-long Festival of Anarchy, throughout the month of May 2009. These events bring together anarchist ideas and practice, through words, images, music, theater and day-to-day struggles for justice, dignity and collective liberation. All are welcome. www.anarchistbookfair.ca/en/node/4

May 19th

Re-enactment of a portion of the historic Sacco-Vanzetti Trial. Dedham District Court Presiding Judge Maurice Richardson (ret.) has written the script and will play the role of the court officer (narrator). The prosecution and defense will both present their closing arguments to the jury. 7 PM, the Dedham Courthouse. The courthouse is located at 650 High Street, Dedham, MA.

May 23-25th

8th Northeast Anarchist Network Assembly, in Ithaca, NY. Details to come. Learn more at: www.NeAnarchist.Net. Email Jake for questions and for transportation: trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net

May 29th

Protest John Kerry with UMass Boston Students Against Occupation at the UMass Boston Commencement. John Kerry supports the Israeli Occupation of Palestine and the apartheid wall! 3PM, on the Campus Center front lawn, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard. Planning meeting regarding the protest will be held on May 9th at 2pm. We are meeting at the UMass Boston Campus Center entrance. More info here: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=90098467392>

May 30th

Really Really Free Market Allston. A lesson in gift economics: a market without money! Bring stuff and/or take stuff, everything is free. Every month, the last Saturday of the month, at Ringer Park in Allston, off of Allston Street between Union Square and Comm. Ave.

June 4th

No Layoffs Campaign pickets Harvard students'

commencement. Harvard isn't broke, they shouldn't be laying off workers! Meet at noon at the Holyoke Ceter, 1350 Mass Ave. harvardnolayoffs.blogspot.com/

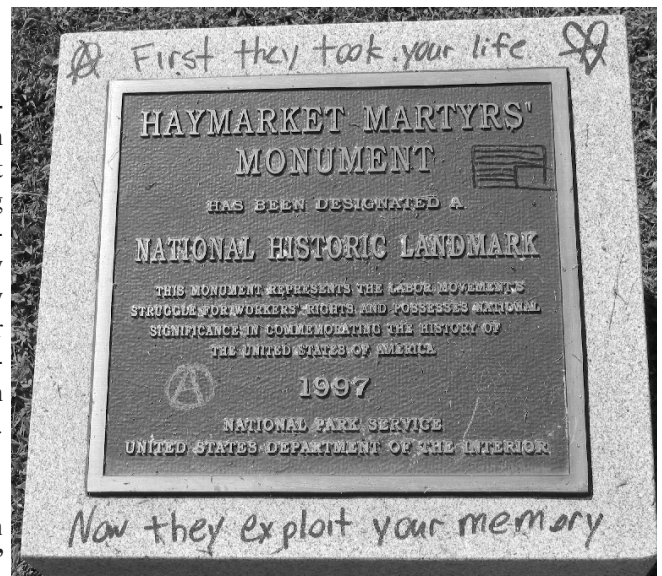
August 23rd

Sacco and Vanzetti Memorial March.

Join the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society for the forth annual march to remember the fallen Italian anarchist workers, and to continue their struggle for revolution. No Deportations, No State Repression! www.SaccoandVanzetti.org

September 19-20th (tentative)

Join BAAM and other Northeast Anarchist Network comrades to smash the G20 in New York City! Details to follow!



HELP US SAVE TREES! (PAPER AND MONEY) FOR A FREE EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION, CONTACT JAKE: [TRENCHESFULLOFPOETS@RISEUP.NET](mailto:trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net)

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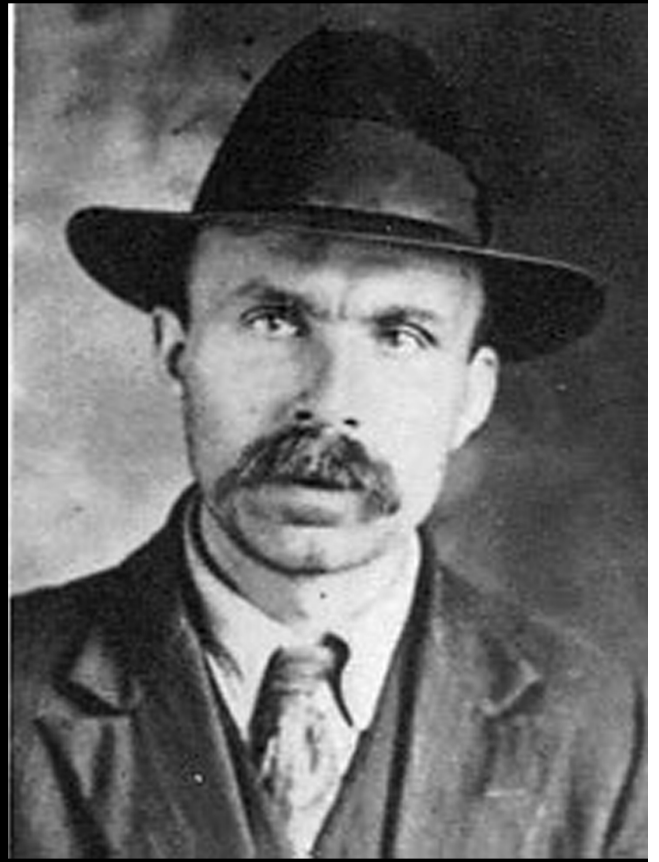


What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is the theory and practice of a human society organizing without hierarchy, authority and oppression. This means that all people have equal access to the decision-making process and to the products of their collective labor. Anarchy can be described as true, direct democracy. It is horizontal: i.e. workers working together without bosses, neighbors organizing housing and neighborhoods without landlords, and people making decisions without politicians. There are many different ideas on how to get there and what exactly it will look like. We can talk all we want, but only a truly free and revolutionary people will be able to decide what their revolution will look like. So comrades, let's get to work!

WWW.BAAMBOSTON.ORG

- August / Agosto 23, 2009 -
REMEMBER/RECUERDE



Sacco and Vanzetti/Sacco y Vanzetti

**-Reunión en Copley Square, 2pm, Marcha a la North End, 3pm
Por un mundo libre, sin Deportaciones y Represión del Estado!**

**-Rally at Copley Square, 2pm, March to the North End at 3pm
For a New World of Freedom, without Deportations and State Repression!**

The Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society
SaccoandVanzetti.org